

Hon. Natasha C. Merle, U.S.D.J.

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January 27, 2026

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Via CM/ECF

Hon. Vera M. Scanlon, U.S.D.J.
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York

Re: Singh v. Topline, et al.
25 Civ. 776 (NCM)(VMS)

Dear Judge Scanlon:

I am writing to apologize for my missing your Honor's conference on January 15, 2026.

To be honest, I read that your Honor had, once again, excused plaintiff's failure to file a reply to the counterclaim for the approximately fourth time, I was emotional and did not read remainder of the order carefully. Further, I was angry that plaintiff filed a "status report" on New Year's Eve, which included a "back door" untimely, post hac, motion to excuse plaintiff's default and your Honor ruled on it on January 2, 2026, *without* giving defendants an opportunity to oppose this application.

On the date of the conference, I had an appearance in Nassau County District Court. I read Mr. Kataev's email from my phone about the conference. I attempted to get through from inside the courthouse but that proved impossible because I could not type in the code while on my phone. I tried it about five times. I called my co-counsel and he was occupied in an immigration matter and could not participate.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Lila Ayers

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cc: Emanuel Kataev, Esq.